

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 1948/US/2
USPTO Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306


REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment and Response is being submitted in response to the Office Action of 2 July 2004. Applicant believes no fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefore and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned at (303) 260-6362.

Dated: 19 November 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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Fig. 1

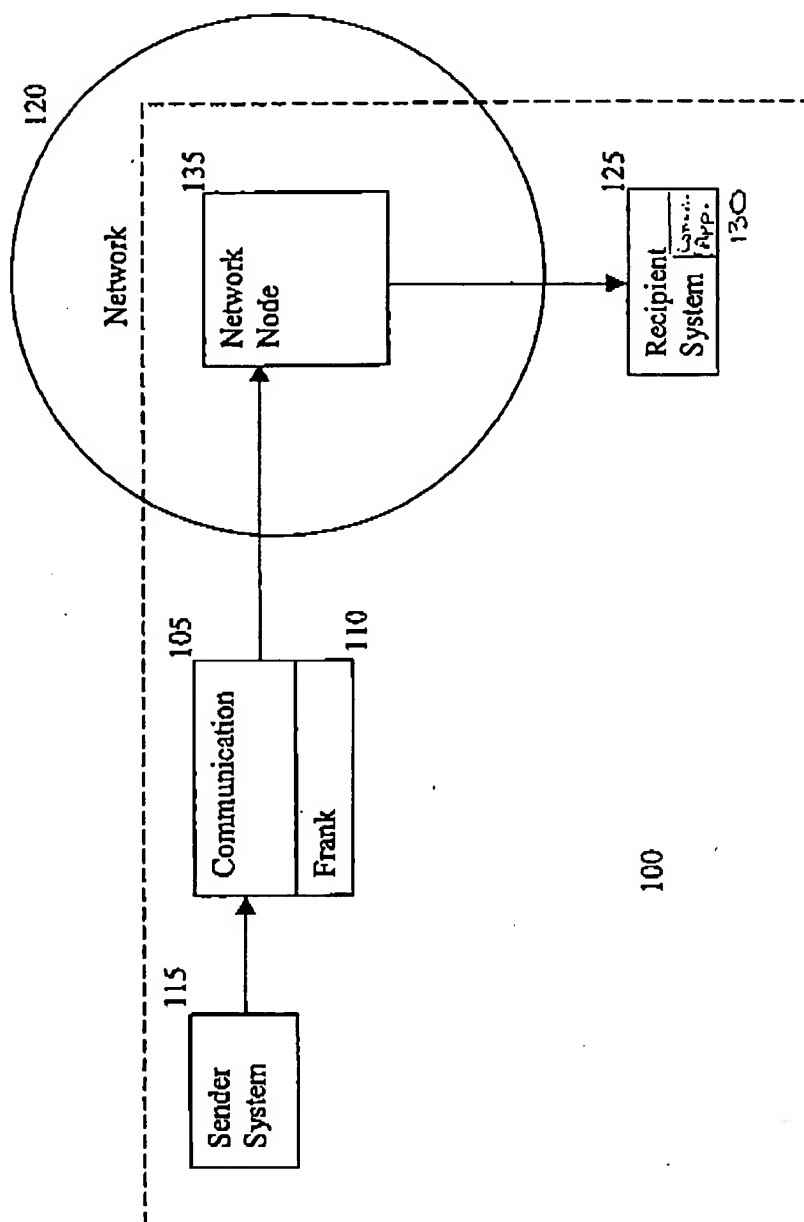


Fig. 2A

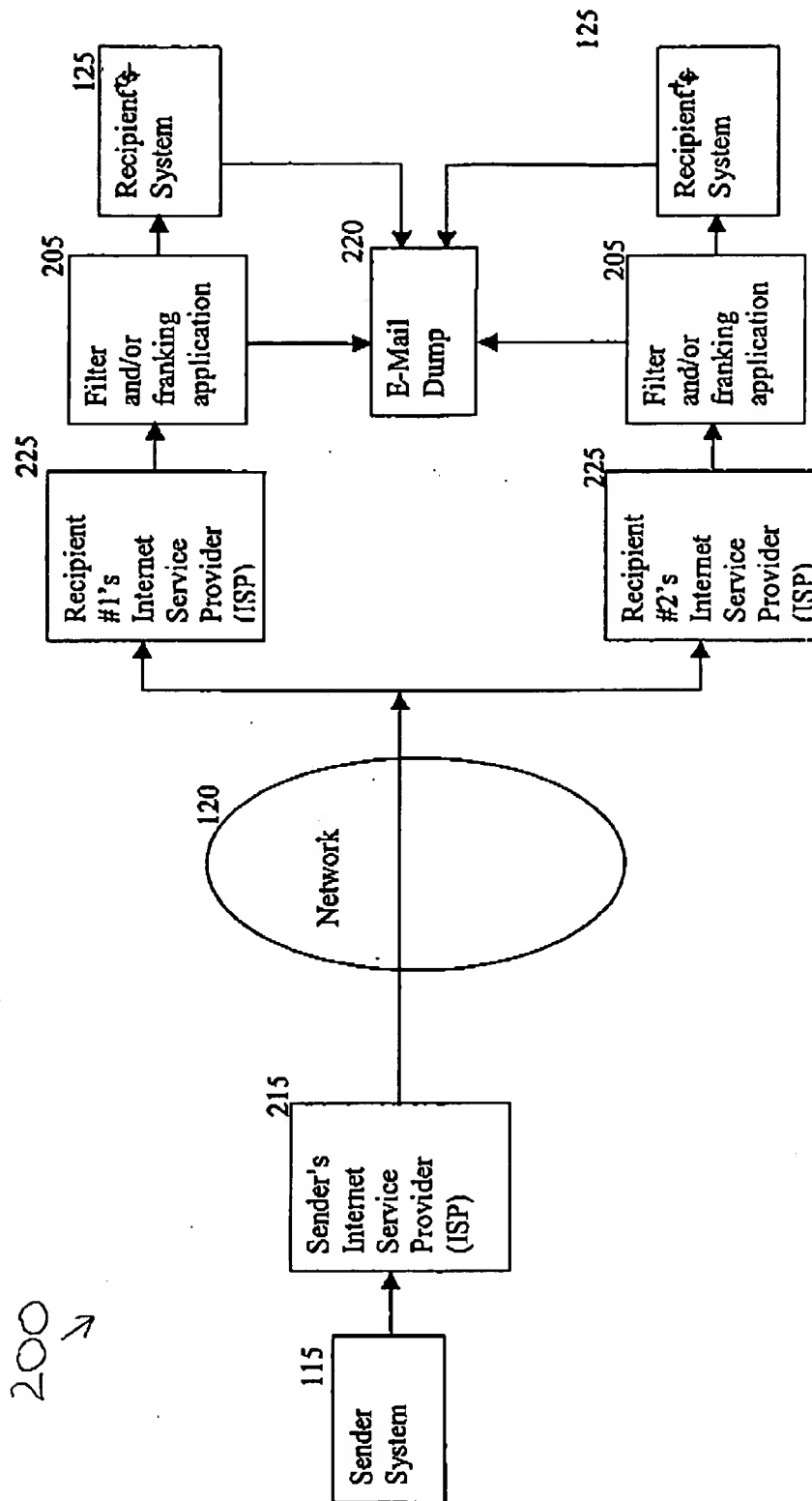
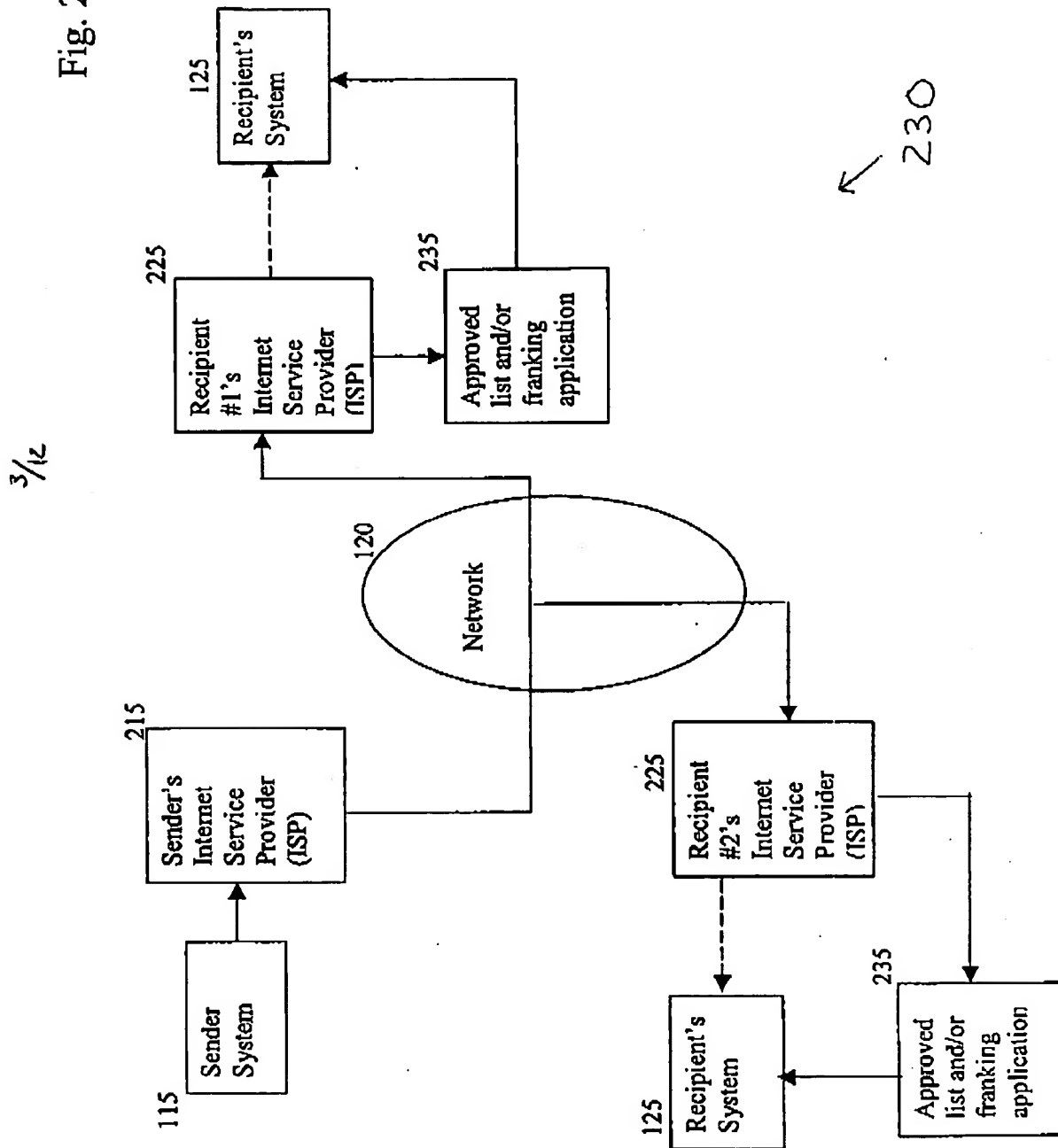


Fig. 2B



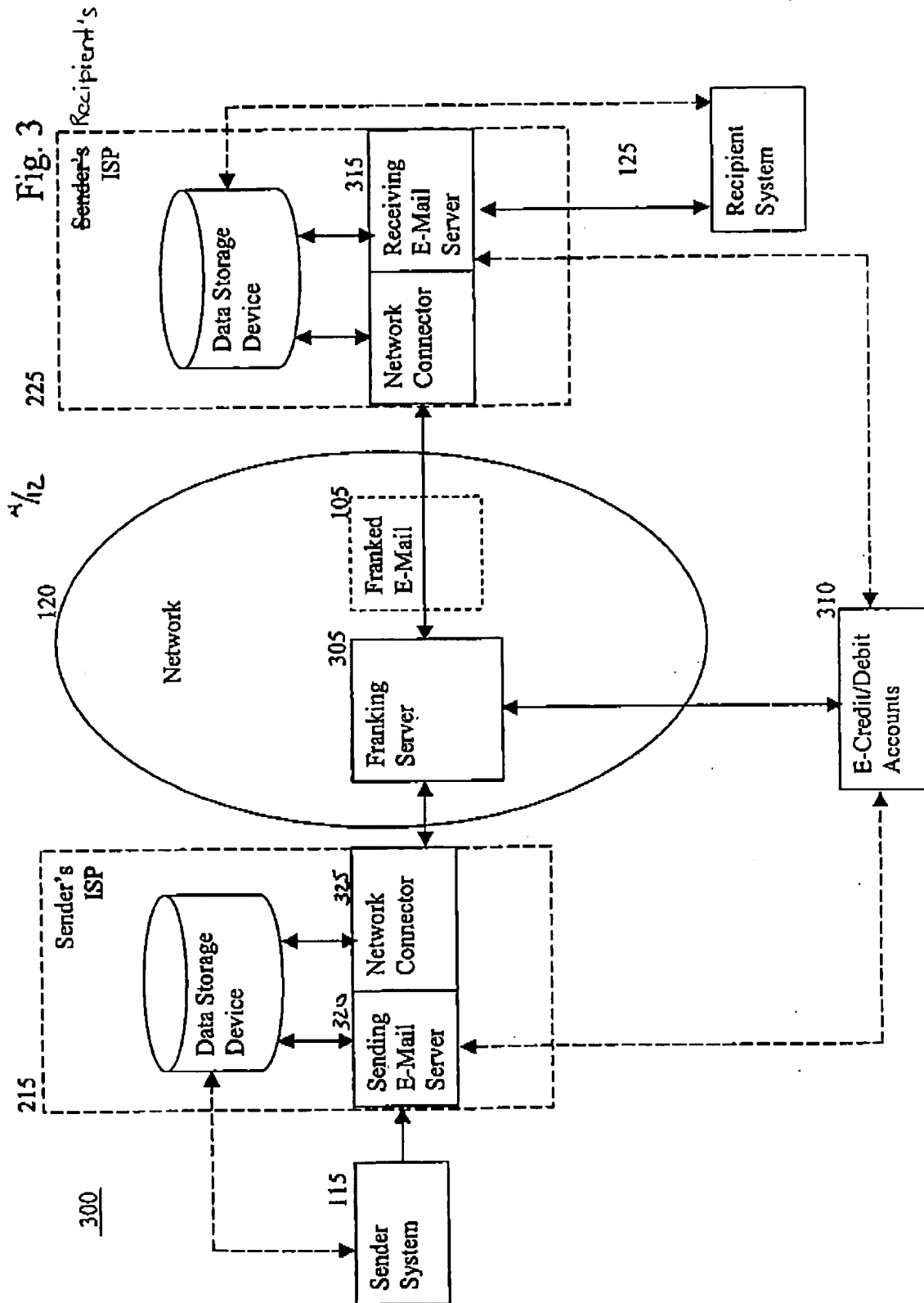
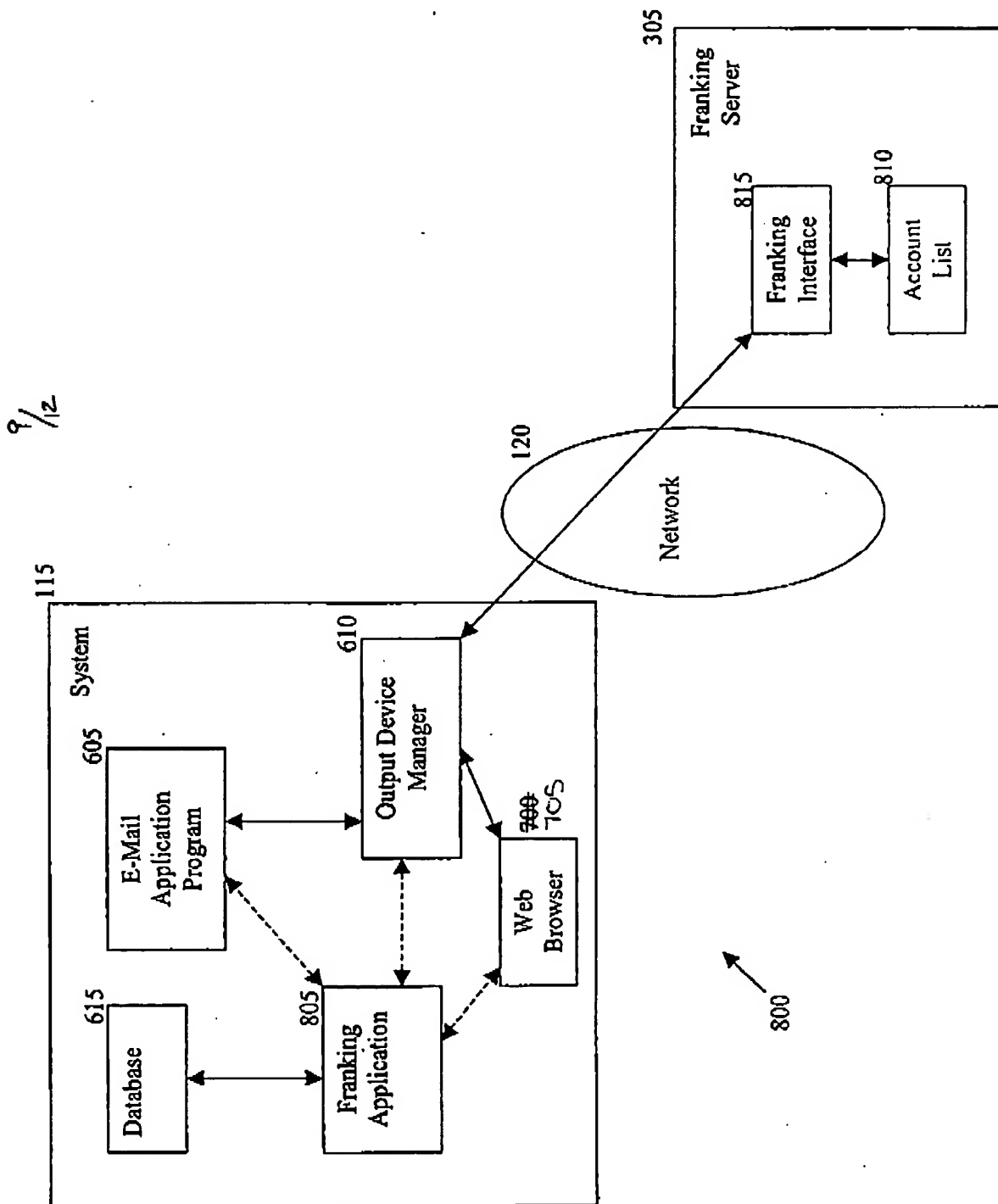
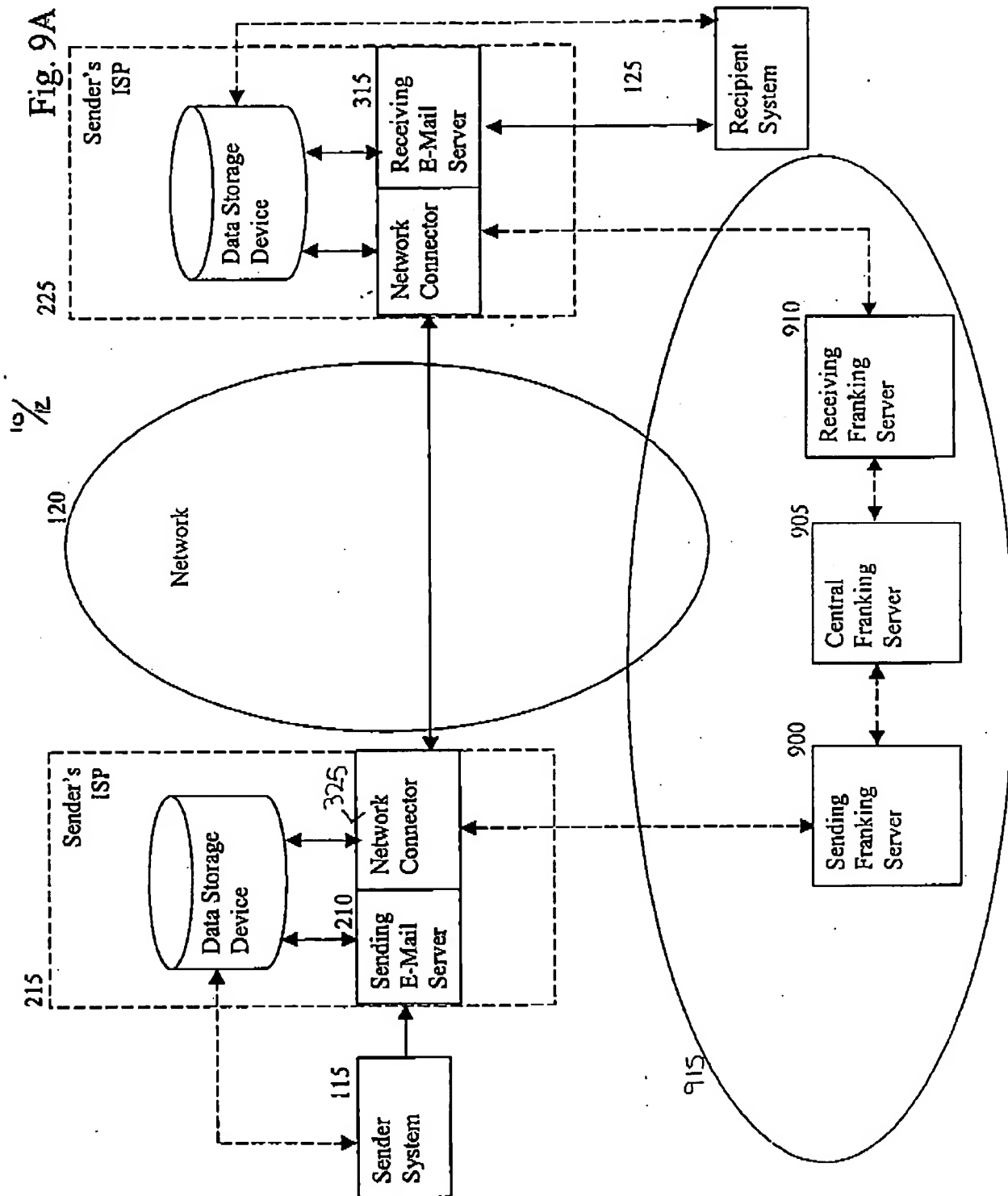


Fig. 8





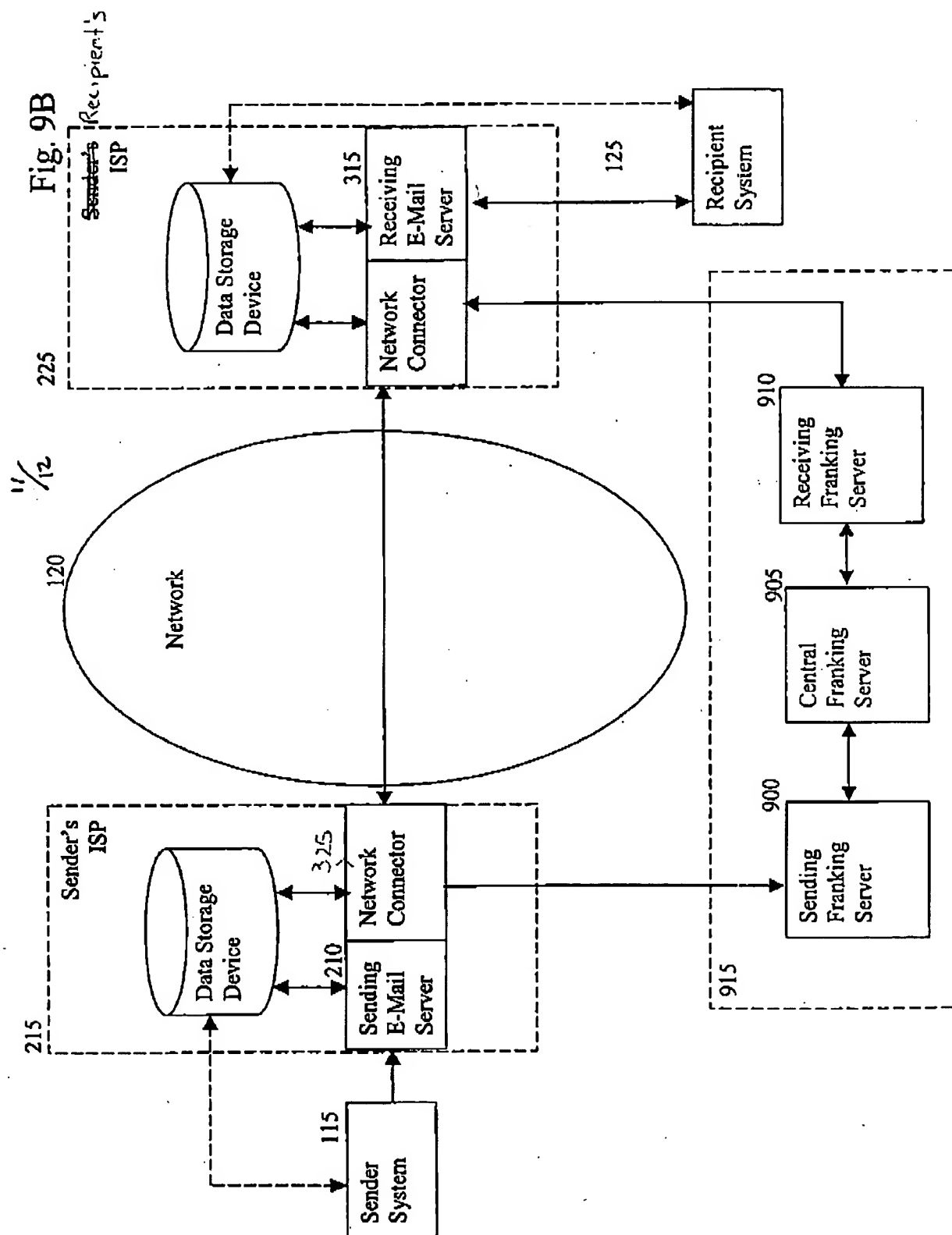
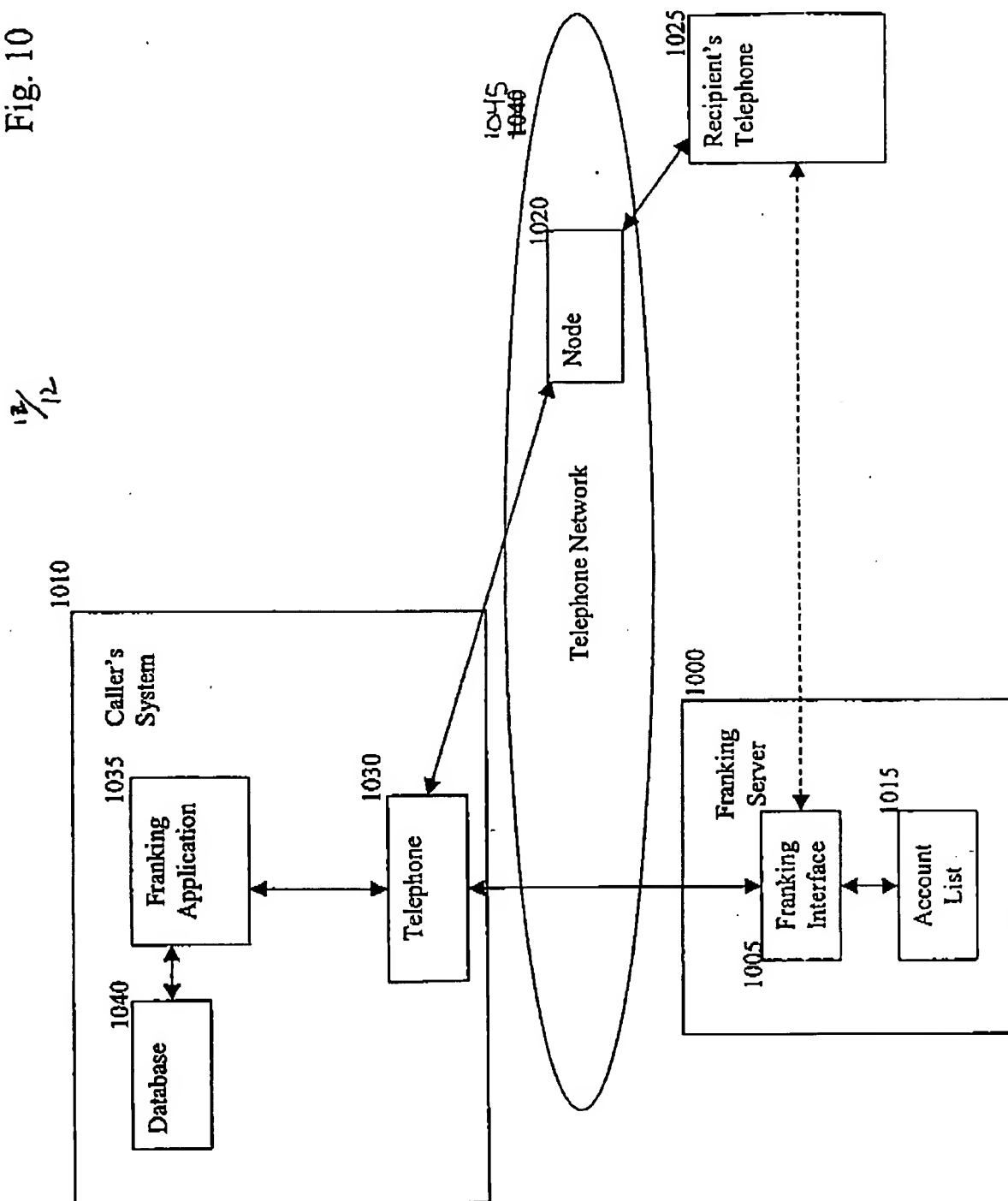


Fig. 10



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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.133, Applicant submits the following summary of the Interview conducted with Examiner Edward R. Cosimano on 18 November 2004. During the Interview, Applicant presented an amendment to the claims which distinguished the claimed subject matter over the cited prior art of record by reciting that a sender specifies a priority to a communication and a franking value represents a consideration for the communication based on the priority is generated. Amendments consistent with the foregoing were suggested and agreed upon by the Examiner for each of the pending independent claims. Specifically, the agreed upon amendments to the claims are as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for generating a frank, comprising:
a franking request receipt module, operative to receive a request for at least one frank; wherein the request associates at least one franking criterion, specified by a user, with a communication;

a franking generation module operative to generate a frank in response to the request for at least one frank and operatively connected to the franking request receipt module; and

a frank transmission module operative to transmit a generated frank, the frank transmission module operatively connected to the franking generation module.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus for generating and sending a franked communication, comprising:

a frank request module operative to request a frank;

wherein the request associates at least one franking criterion, specified by a user, with a communication;

a frank attachment module operative to attach the frank requested by the frank request module to a communication, thereby creating a franked communication; and

a franked communication transmission module operative to transmit the franked communication.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for receiving and processing a franked communication, comprising:

a communication receipt module operative to receive a communication;

wherein the communication is associated with at least one franking criterion specified by a user;

a determination module operative to determine whether the communication is franked, the determination module operatively connected to the communication receipt module; and

a franked communication processing module operative to process the

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communication according to a first rule in the event the communication is franked, the franked communication processing module operatively connected to the determination module.

Further, it is the Applicant's understanding that the Examiner will enter the above amendments to the claims by Examiner's Amendment. As such, the above amendments to the claims are not provided herewith this Supplemental Amendment and Response and Interview Summary.